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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

VOL. XIV.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 12, 1899.

No. 19.

UNITED STATES.

Precautions to be taken against dismantling of yellow fever infected buildings during the quarantine season.

Owing to the danger that may result from the dismantling of old buildings which have once been infected with yellow fever, the following letter was addressed to the president of the Louisiana State board of health, calling his attention to this fact, and urging that precautions be taken to prevent this source of infection during the present season.

OFFICE OF SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., May 3, 1899.

SIR: I desire to invite your attention to a matter which is of very considerable sanitary importance, namely, that no old buildings which have once been infected with yellow fever should be allowed to be dismantled in summer. You will possibly remember that there is reason to believe that the epidemic of yellow fever in Franklin, La., during last year originated in the dismantling of a building which had been infected the previous year. A further case in point may be cited in the dismantling of an old barge in the harbor of Havana (see page 608, PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS No. 17, dated April 28, 1899). With the strong probability of such happenings in mind, the Bureau, in the spring of 1898, refused to sanction the dismantling of the cruiser *Buffalo*, formerly the Brazilian cruiser *Nichteroy*, at Newport News, Va. Both the Franklin and Havana incidents show very conclusively the wisdom of this latter named decision, and it is, therefore, believed that

it would be a very wise precaution should all the States of the South forbid the dismantling of such old buildings at any time between the 1st of April and the 1st of November.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,
Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

Dr. EDMOND SOUCHON,

President State Board of Health, New Orleans, La.

The president of the State board of health of Louisiana replied as follows:

NEW ORLEANS, *May 6, 1899.*

SIR: I have received your letter of May 3, inviting my attention to the importance of not allowing old buildings which have once been infected with yellow fever to be dismantled in summer.

I will send a circular letter to all of our health officers, parish and municipal, to that effect.

Yours, very truly,

EDMOND SOUCHON, M. D.,
President Louisiana State Board of Health.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Cerebro-spinal meningitis—Abstract of replies received to circular requesting information.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

LOUISIANA—*Shreveport.*—During the two weeks ended May 7, 1899, 6 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported. Since January 31, 26 deaths have resulted from cerebro-spinal meningitis.

SOUTH CAROLINA—*Charleston.*—Since April 29, 1899, 3 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis are reported.

Smallpox in the United States.

ALABAMA.

Mobile.—Surgeon Murray reports, May 5, 2 cases of smallpox admitted to pesthouse on May 1 and May 2, respectively.

CALIFORNIA.

Los Angeles.—Health officer reports 1 case of smallpox and 1 death from same on April 30.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington.—Deputy Health Officer McLean reports, May 4, no new cases; 29 cases in hospital and 5 houses in quarantine. May 5, 1 suspicious case under observation; May 6, no new cases. There were 23 cases on hand and 4 houses in quarantine.